



**United Cerebral Palsy  
of Central Ohio**

440 Industrial Mile Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio  
43228-2411  
(614) 279-0109  
(614) 279-2527 FAX  
ucpofcentralohio.org

Adult Day Program  
Employment Program  
In-Home Program  
Assistive Technology

Adult Day Centers:

**Grace Kindig ADC**

440 Industrial Mile Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43228  
(614) 279-0109

**Reese ADC**

123 South 3rd Street  
Newark, Ohio 43055  
(740) 345-4771



UCP of Central Ohio  
is a CARF accredited  
United Way Agency.

EX PARTE ORIGINAL  
CC 98-67

Office of the Secretary of the FCC  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RECEIVED**

**SEP 25 2002**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

September 25, 2002

Subject: "EX PARTE COMMENT FOR DOCKET NUMBER 90-571 on  
NECA FUNDS" and "EX PARTE COMMENT TO DOCKET NUMBER  
98-67 ON TRS/STS OUTREACH"

Dear Secretary:

**EX PARTE OR LATE FILED**

I live in Ohio and I am pleased that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Ohio made telephones accessible to people with speech disabilities by providing Speech to Speech. I STRONGLY URGE THE PUC TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE STS OUTREACH SERVICE.

In Ohio, people with speech disabilities have dramatically improved their lives because of the increasing availability of assistive technology. The availability of STS would have a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities served by United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio. A majority of the people with disabilities experience the frustration of their speech and communication not being understood by the general public. People with disabilities face challenges in communicating in their everyday lives. STS services would eliminate one barrier people with disabilities must overcome.

Providing outreach appropriate to people with speech disabilities is an essential part of access. When people with speech disabilities have appropriate training to use STS, they become more independent, participate more in the community, get jobs etc. The new relay regulations require states and relay providers to contract such that relay is accessible to users with speech disabilities.

If the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio provides STS without appropriate outreach, call volumes will be extremely low. Call volumes could rise substantially with an extensive STS outreach service tailored to people with speech disabilities. Providing appropriate outreach for STS will help Ohio residents with speech disabilities enter the mainstream of life.

Because I want this independence for people with speech disabilities in Ohio, I strongly urge the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to provide an STS outreach service similar to the very successful STS intensive outreach services in California, Minnesota and Maryland.

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*You see people. We see promise.*



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Based on Minnesota's budgetary experience, such a service may cost \$288,000 annually based on Ohio's population. Many states have sufficient surcharge money to fund a STS outreach service without difficulty. Vocational rehabilitation client services money may be available to teach people to use STS as it fosters independence and makes people job ready.

A large proportion of people with speech disabilities have other disabilities as well; this makes it very difficult for them to advocate for themselves. Therefore, it is necessary for the rest of us to insure that services like STS outreach are adequately provided for.

Again, I strongly urge the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to budget for an effective STS outreach service with an annual budget of \$288,000.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Streblo*  
Kathy Streblo  
Executive Director

cc: Disability Rights Office  
Consumer Information Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission, Room 6C-447  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

cc: Beth Blackmer  
Public Interest Center  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
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Columbus, OH 43215-3793

cc: Michael B. Fingerhut, General Attorney  
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401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20004

cc: Kristine Shipley, Program Manager  
Sprint Relay  
One Metro Place, 545 Metro Place So., Suite 100,  
Dublin, Ohio 43017

cc: Bob Segalman, Ph.D.  
Department of Rehabilitation  
Att: Program Evaluation  
2000 Evergreen Street  
Sacramento, CA 95815

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